

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

5 receiving audiovisual data from a desired transmission channel;  
if said audiovisual data is not compressed according to a predetermined  
format, compressing said received audiovisual data according to said  
predetermined format;

10 storing, in a mass storage device and for a predefined period of time,  
compressed audiovisual data received from said desired transmission channel;  
and

15 in response to a user request, providing to said user said stored  
compressed audiovisual data beginning with a portion of said stored  
compressed audiovisual data having associated with it a first temporal  
parameter.